

From: Bob
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/18/01 9:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Case

I have been employed in the software development field for over 25 years, spending the past 10 years writing software for the various Windows operating systems, using mainly Microsoft tools. I am currently Beta testing the Microsoft VS.NET development tools.

I recently spec'ed a new PC. I had the choice of either an Intel or AMD processor, motherboard from 5 top-tier suppliers, memory from 3 top-tier suppliers, a NIC from 5 top-tier suppliers, hard drives from 3 top-tier suppliers, video card from 3 top-tier suppliers, audio card from 2 top-tier suppliers, monitor from over 6 top-tier suppliers, and an overwhelming choice of CD-RWs, DVDs, keyboards and mice.

For the operating system, I had the choice of Microsoft and nobody.

I have followed the Microsoft trial in both the print and electronic media. Microsoft has been found guilty of violating the anti-trust laws. I fail to see how the proposed settlement will prevent Microsoft from continuing to violate the law. At the same time, I don't see ANY punishment for its illegal behavior. Hello? What incentive does Microsoft have to avoid becoming a repeat offender when there is no punishment for the crimes of which it has been convicted? So far, it appears that Microsoft calculated correctly that any punishment it might receive would simply be a minor cost of doing business to continue its illegal monopoly. Microsoft needs to be punished to such an extent that should Mr. Gates consider violating the law again, he will remember that the last time he did that, he lost a lot more than he ever gained, and quickly decide against that course of action.

Sincerely,

Robert Ainsley